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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode #42

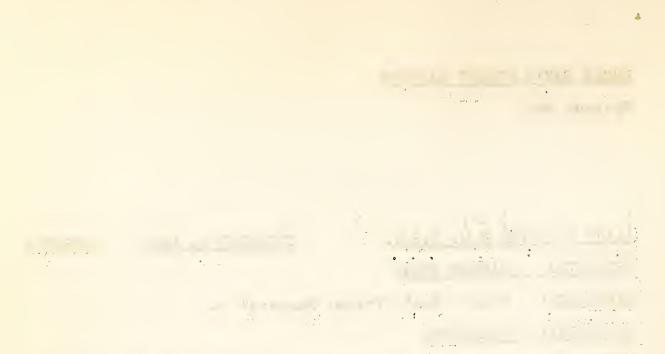
() - () 11:30 to 12:30 P.M. C.S.T. DECEMBER 8, 1932 THURSDAY

ORCHESTRA: RANGER SONG:

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" --

ORCHESTRA: QUARTETTE

ANNOUNCER: Many of the great mountain ranges of the country are in large part within the boundaries of our National Forests, which are protected and administered by the Federal Government for the use and enjoyment of all the people of the United States. From coast to coast and from boundary to boundary, the great system of National Forests extends. There are nearly one hundred and fifty of them, and all of them are being managed for the continuous development and conservation of the resources -wood, water, wild life, forage for livestock, recreation, and scenic values. Timber can be cut on the National Forests only under a system which leaves the stands capable of producing continuous future crops. -- Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are the men on the job in the National Forests, charged with their management and protection. You all know Forest Ranger Jim Robbins, and his young assistant, Jerry Quick. Let's go now to the Pine Cone Ranger District, and find out what they re doing today. Here they are at the breakfast table --



JIM:

Jerry --

JERRY:

Yes, Jim?

JIM:

I reckon you'd better get a pretty early start up to the timber sale area this morning. If you don't get those trees marked for cutting pretty sudden, it's going to hold up the logging operation.

JERRY:

Yeah, I know. Soon as I have another cup of coffee,

I'll be ready to start. — I can have another cup of
coffee, can't I, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS:

Why, of course. Pass me your cup, Jerry. — You'd better have another pan-cake too, hadn't you? — and some more bacon.

JERRY:

No thanks, Mrs. Robbins. I'm full up. Just another cup of coffee is all I need.

BESS:

All right -- There you are.

JERRY:

Thanks.

BESS:

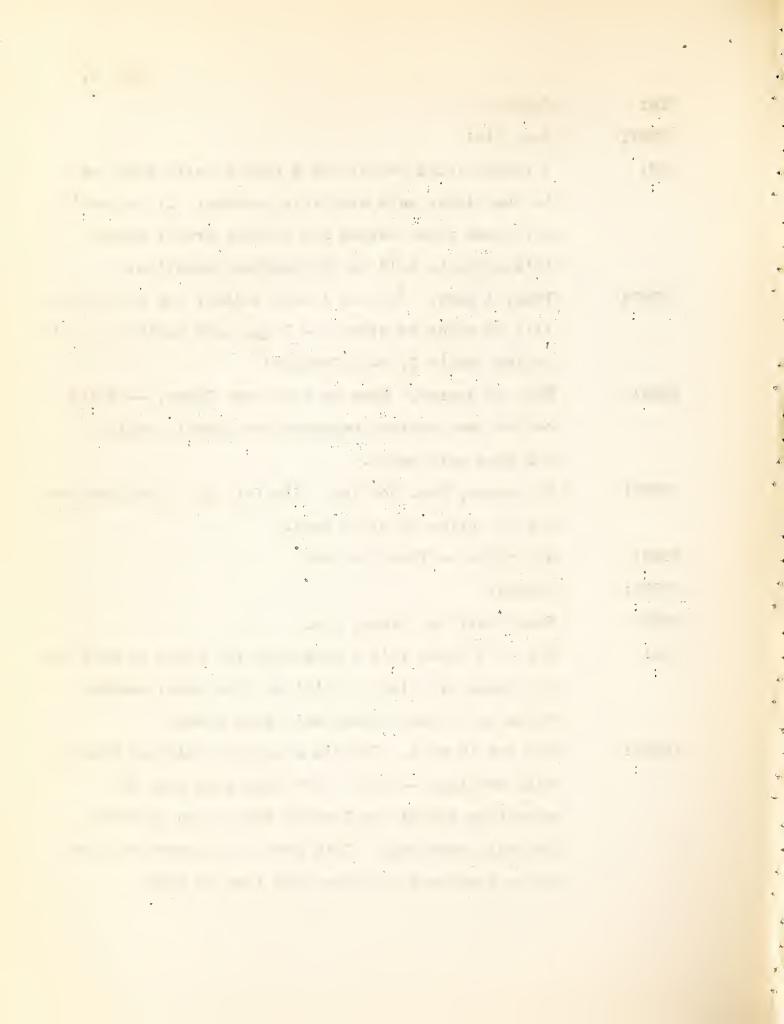
Pass Jerry the cream, Jim.

JIM:

Yep --- I guess it's a good idea for Jerry to warm up his tummy all right. It'll be cold work, marking trees up on that timber sale area today.

JERRY:

You bet it will. There's a plenty cold wind blowing this morning. — Gee, I bet that wind sure is whistling around the Lookout Station up on Windy Mountain about now. It'd sure be lonesome to have to be stationed up there this time of year.



JIM:

I reckon it's apt to get lonesome for a lookout almost any time. — Sometimes lookouts do have company, though — unusual company. (chuckles) They say that a few months ago one of our lookout men down in Florida came up to his lookout tower and found a big buzzard perched on the protractor looking around just as if he was trying to sight a smoke.

JERRY:

That must've looked funny. Too bad we can't train buzzards to report fires. They sure see lots of country.

JIM:

Yep -- Well, the Sunny Brook Lookout up on the Olympic National Forest can beat that, though. He found a mountain goat standin! there sighting through the alidade on one of our Osborn firefinders.

JERRY:

Sure enough?

JIM:

And the funny part about it was that the old mountain goat was actually sighting a smoke. The alidade was lined up right square on a fire that was just starting up in the forest.

JERRY:

Can you beat that?!

JIM:

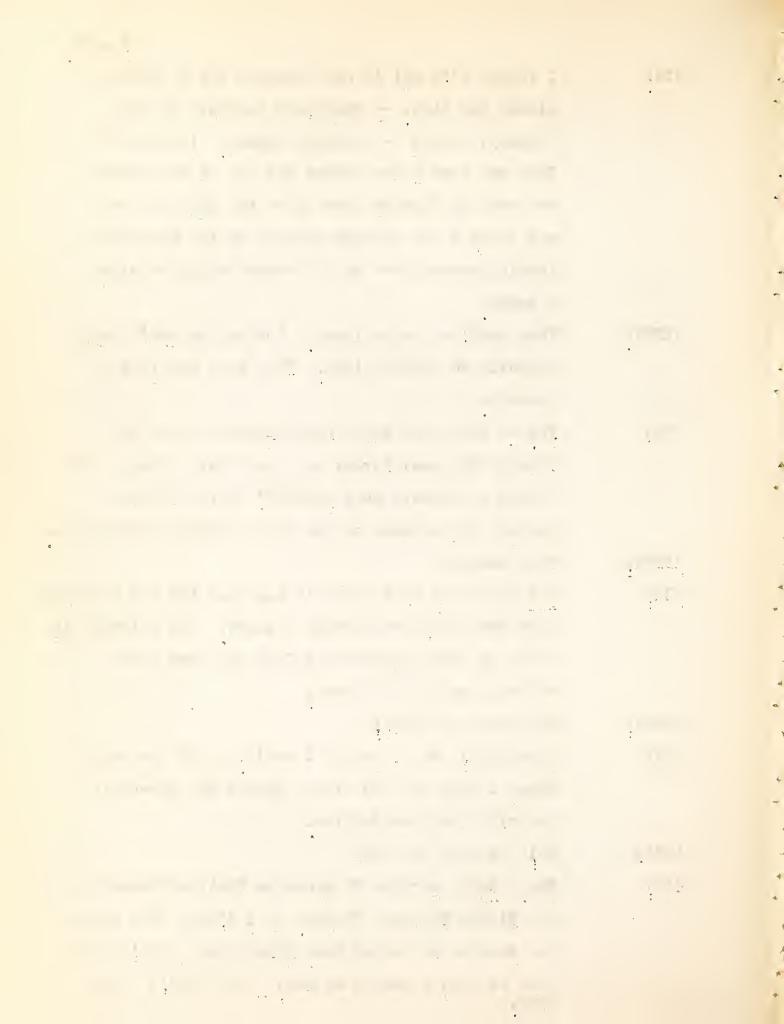
(chuckles) No, I reckon I can't. -- By the way, Bess, I hear our old friend Ranger Mal McLeod is retiring from the Service.

BESS:

No! Is that so, Jim?

JIM:

Yep. After serving 27 years as District Manager on the Sierra National Forest. — I s'pose that means the Service is losing Mrs. McLeod too - she's been just as good a ranger as Mal, - and that's going some.



BESS:

Yes, indeed!

JIM:

Mal quit a good job and took the ranger examination way back in 1905 - that was when the ranger job paid \$60 a month and you had to furnish a string of horses and most of your own tools. And he's been a faithful, hard-working ranger ever since.

JERRY:

JIM:

Was he the inventor of the McLeod fire-fighting tool? Yep. That was back in 1910. He had it made in a blacksmith shop at Sugar Pine - it was a little crude, but it's essentially the same McLeod tool we use in some places in fire-fighting today. — Well, (chuckles) Mal may be on the retirement list now, but I bet he'll keep right on working for forestry. He's been at it too long now to drop out that easy. (chuckles) I reckon he feels like most of us old-timers do - that what we've done so far has been worth while, but we ought to have another hundred years or so, so we could do a real job. — But we'll have to leave our trust to you young men in the Service, Jerry. You'll gradually be taking over the reins.

JERRY:

I sure hope we can live up to it. You old timers certainly are training us right, anyhow.

JIM:

Well, if you're going to be trained right, I reckon you'd better hurry up and swallow that coffee and get started up on the marking job.

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JERRY: Yeah. I'm ready to go right now. -- I got my stuff together before breakfast.

BESS: I've already fixed up your lunch, Jerry. It's in there on the kitchen table.

JERRY: All right, thanks. -- (going off) I'll cover as much area as I can today, Jim.

JIM: Take time to do it right though, Jerry. We want all the trees marked that should be cut and all those left that should keep on growing.

JERRY: (off) Don't worry, Jim.

BEŚS: (calling after him) And be sure to keep bundled up warm, Jerry ---

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(PHONE RINGS)

JIM: (answering phone) Pine Cone Ranger Station — Yeah, this is Jim. — Oh, hello, Al. How goes it? — huh? Well, Jerry ought to be there before now.

He left here early this morning. — Yeah, I know.— Well, he ought to be there any time now. I guess he must(ve got side-tracked somewhere along the way — Yeah. — All right. So long, Al. (HANGS UP RECEIVER)

BESS: (coming up) Who was that, Jim?

JIM: That was Al Perkins, the logging camp boss. He says

Jerry hasn't showed up yet, and it's holding them up

with their work. They've cut nearly all the timber

that's been marked.

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BESS: Jerry ought to be there by now. -- You don't suppose

he could have had an accident, Jim?

JIM: No, I guess he must've run across something that

needed taking care of, on his way up. --

BESS: Oh dear. I hope nothing serious has happened.

JIM: He'd probably phone in if it was anything important.

-- I guess he'll be there before long now --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(PHONE RINGS)

JIM: (answering phone) Hello -- Pine Cone Ranger

Station -- Yeah -- Huh? Hasn't showed up yet? ---

Hmm, that's strange -- No, we haven't had any word

from him here. -- Yeah, I know, Al. I guess I'll

have to come up there myself and start marking

timber -- Yeah, I'll be right up, Al -- So long.

(HANGS UP RECEIVER) --- (To Bess) Say, Bess, that's

funny. Jerry hasn't showed up at the logging camp

yet.

BESS:

He hasn't? Oh, dear, what do you suppose is wrong?

JIM: Darned if I know, Bess. He must ve got sidetracked

on some other job, but I don't know what it would

be that would take him this long.

BESS: I'm worried about him, Jim. He's usually so reliable,

you know.

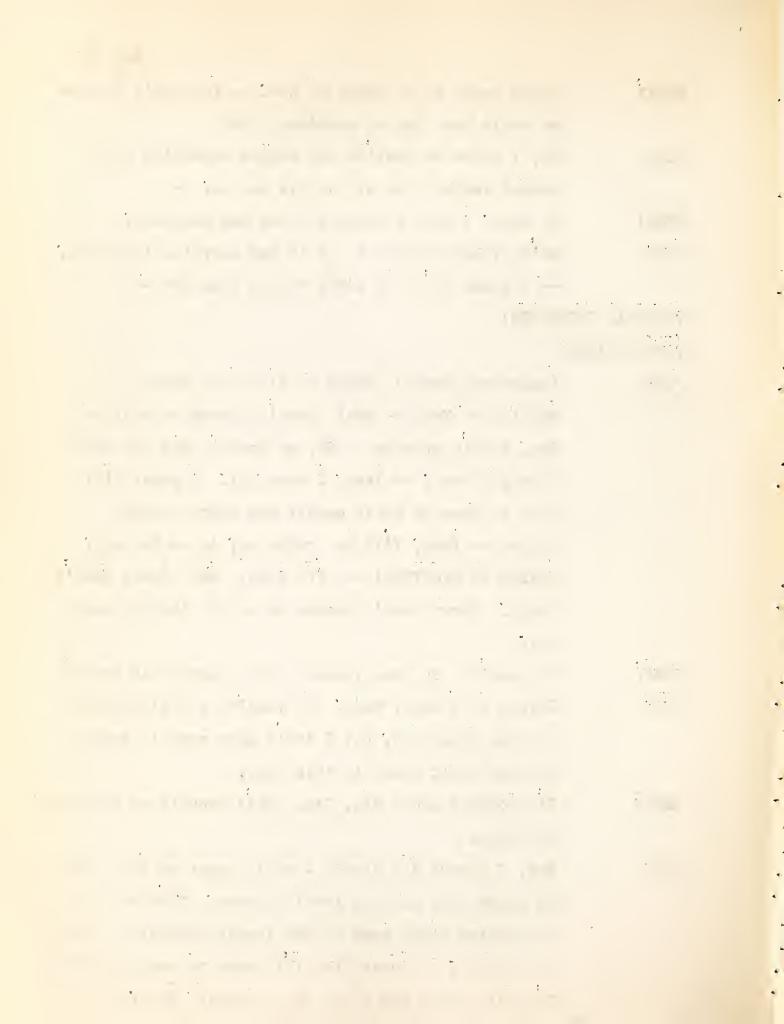
JIM: Yes, I always did figure I could count on im. And

he knows this marking job is urgent. It's got to

be started right away so the logging operation won't

be held up. -- Looks like I'll have to postpone what

I'm doing here and go up there myself, Bess.



BESS: Oh, that's a shame.

Yep. Half a day's gone already now. We'll have to do some fast work or the camp'll be idle. -- Don't wait supper on me, Bess.

BESS:

Yes, I will to. You'll need a good warm supper when you get back -- And you be sure and let me know if you find Jerry, Jim. I'm afraid something has happened to him.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

JIM: (calls) Al -- oh, Al --

PERKINS: (off) Yeah -- Hello, Jim. -- (coming up) Say, where's that young assistant of yours, huh?

JIM: Hasn't he showed up yet, Al?

PERKINS: Haven't seen hide nor hair of 'im. Where d'you s'pose he went to?

JIM: Blamed if I know, Al. He hadn't phoned in to the station when I left.

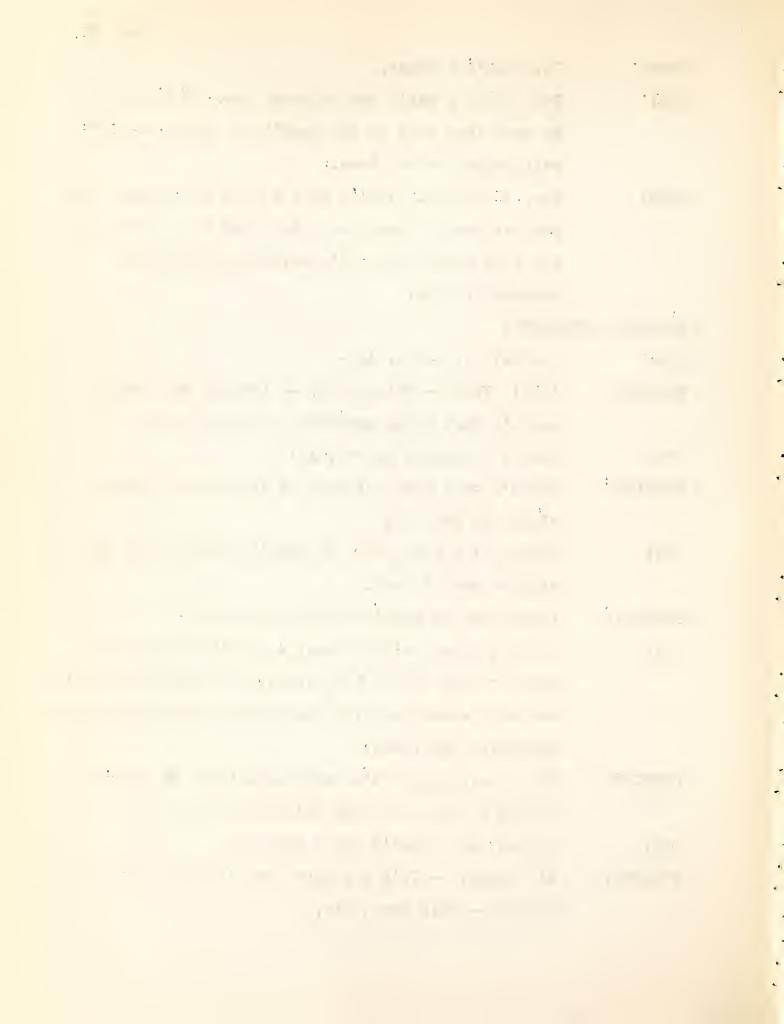
PERKINS: Looks like he must tve kited out on you.

JIM: I don't think he'd do that, Al. I've always been able to rely on the boy before. — I guess he must've run onto something else that needed taking care of — something important.

PERKINS: Well, this <u>here</u> job's important, too. We can't afford to have our camp idle here, Jim.

JIM: I know, Al. That's why I came up.

PERKINS: All right. -- It's a mighty good looking stand of timber -- this here, Jim.



JIM: Yep so it is, Al. You boys'll be able to get a lot

of good lumber off this area and still leave a good

stand of young growth for the next crop. -- It'll

be easy to mark the trees you can cut here.

PERKINS: Yeah. It ought to be.

JIM: Here's one you can take, for a starter, Al. You

ought to get three good logs out of this one, easy.

PERKINS: Yep. She's sound as a dollar.

JIM: Well, here goes --

(FADEOUT WITH SOUND OF CUTTING BLAZE ON TREE, AND STAMPING IT WITH BUTT OF AXE)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (calls) Hello --- Bess?

BESS: (off) Is that you Jim?

JIM: Yep.

BESS: (coming up) Did you find Jerry?

JIM: No. Hasn't he called in here yet, Bess?

BESS: No. What on earth could have happened, Jim?

JIM: Hmm. Something's wrong, all right. I didn't see

any sign of him along the way to the logging camp,

so it couldn't have been an accident along the way.

BESS: I'm awfully worried, Jim. I can't imagine what

has happened.

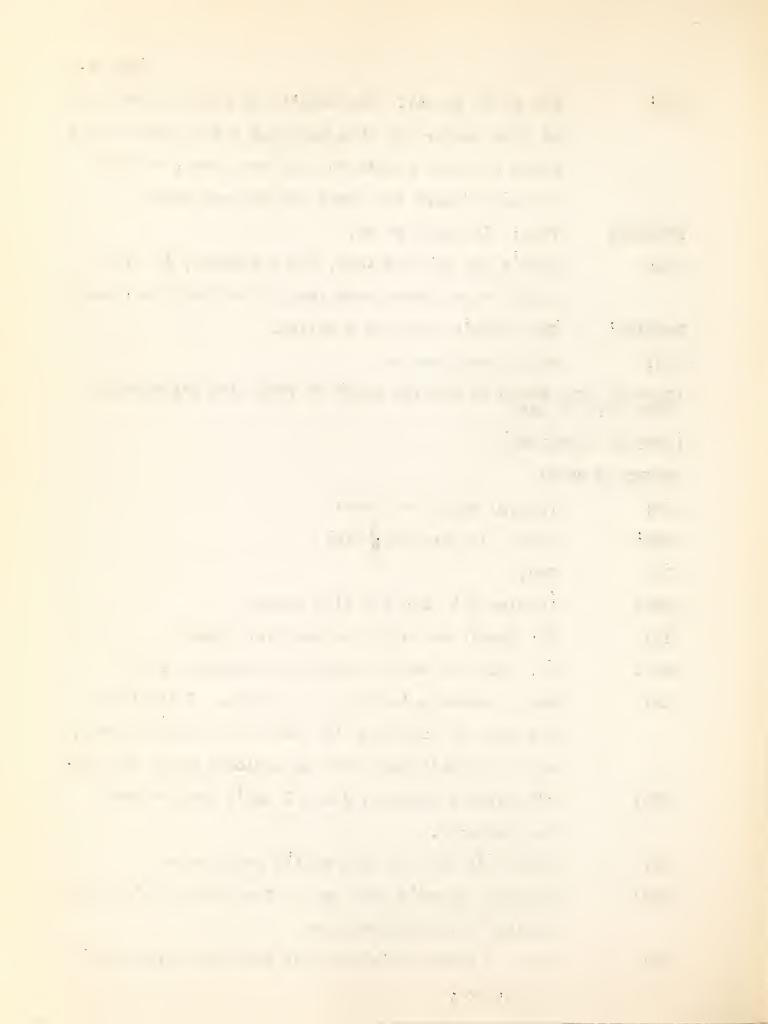
JIM: Well, I'd like to know what's going on --

BESS: Listen. There's some one - That must be Jerry now --

coming in the back way --

JIM: Yep. I reckon he's going to have some explainin'

to do, too.



BESS: Oh, Jim, you mustn't be too hard on him, now —

I'm sure there was a good reason —

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JERRY: (coming in) Hello, folks --

ESS: Jerry! Where have you been?

JIM: (sternly) Yep. Where ve you been all day, young

fellow?

JERRY: Why -- uh -- I had something to tend to, Jim.

JIM: What was that?

JERRY: Well - uh - something important.

JIM: Official business?

JERRY: Well -- not exactly --

JIM: Look here, Quick. I guess you realize that absence

from official duty without permission is apt to be

a serious matter, with us here in the Service?

JERRY: Yes, I know.

JIM: You knew that marking job was an urgent matter -

it has to be done promptly to fulfill our part of

the timber sale agreement with the operator?

JERRY: Yes, I know, but -- I couldn't make it, Jim.

JIM: (kindly) What's the matter. Jerry? Something gone

wrong?

JERRY: N-no.

JIM: Have you got in some kind of trouble?

JERRY: No. -- I -- uh -- I'd rather not say --

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JIM: Well, I'm sorry, Jerry, -- but I'm going to have to

report you to the Supervisor as absent from official

duty without permission -- and of course you know.

that means that disciplinary action will be taken.

JERRY: Yes -- I know -- Jim --

BESS: Oh, Jerry, I'm so sorry. Can't you tell us what

the matter was?

JERRY: I'm afraid I can't, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: Well - then let's not say anything more about it

just now -- Supper's all ready, and you and Jim

both must be starved by now.

JERRY: Yeah - I guess I'd better (going off) go get cleaned

up a little bit, first.

(PAUSE)

BESS: What on earth can be the matter, Jim? Jerry's been

so faithful ever since he came here.

JIM: So he has. - I didn't think he was the kind of young

fellow that'd side-step a hard job -- or go

gallivantin' off without a good reason.

BESS: I'm sure there must be some reason --

JIM: Well, it looks like he's either done something he's

ashamed to admit or else he's hiding something. ---

I don't like this Bess. I don't like to have to

perform the duty of reporting him absent from the job

without a reason - but I guess the boy'll have to

face the music.

(SOUND OF DOG BARKING, OFF)

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BESS: Listen - what's Rex barking for? -- Do you suppose

somebody's prowling around outside?

JIM: Maybe I'd better go take a look —

BESS: Yes, there might be somebody out there.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (way off) What's the matter, Rex? (calling)

Hello --- ? Anybody there? ,--- (coming back) .I

don't see anything out of the ordinary, Bess.

Might've been some animal prowling around the

hen house. --

BESS: Yes, that might be what it is.

JIM: Or maybe Rex was having bad dreams.

BESS: Well - supper's waiting. -- I'd better call Jerry. --

JIM: Uh huh.

BESS: (calls) Are you ready for supper, Jerry? -- Jerry -

(going off) -- Oh, Jerry -- Jerry -- (coming back)

He isn't in his room, Jim.

JIM: That's funny.

BESS: Where do you suppose he is, Jim? -- (calls) Jerry --

Oh, Jerry --

JIM: Hmm. Looks like the boy's disappeared again. He

must've slipped ou the front door while I was out

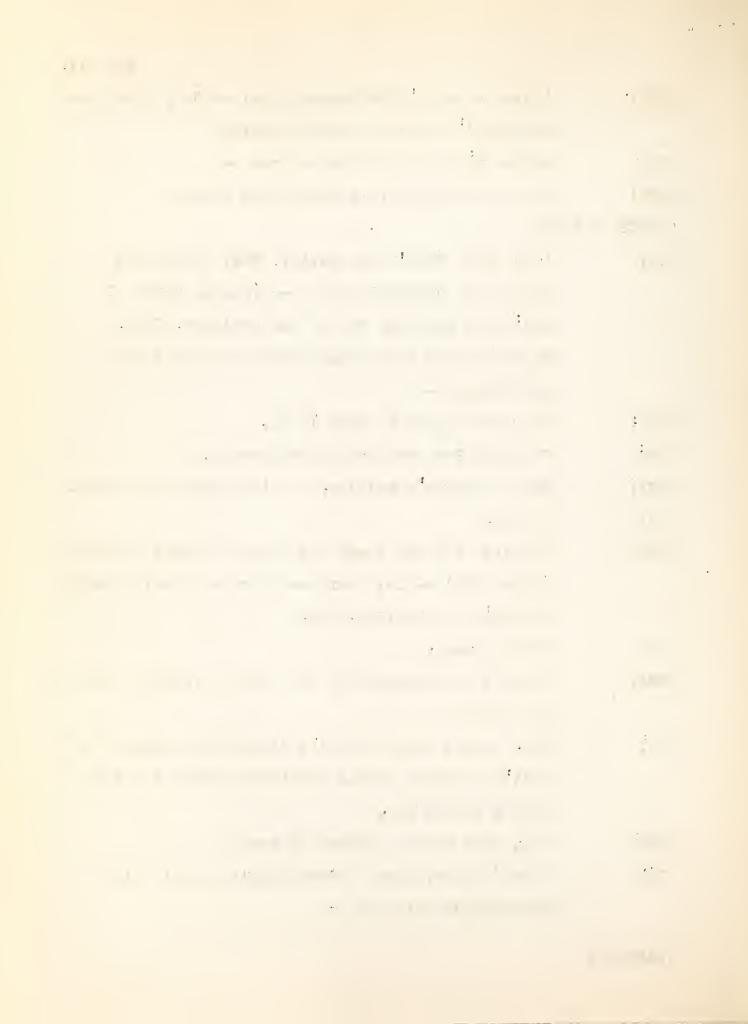
back a minute ago.

BESS: Jim, what do you suppose is wrong?

JIM: I don't know, Bess -- Something's up, all right --

something's going on --

(FADEOUT)



ANNOUNCER:

Yes, sir, something is going on. Where was Jerry today? And why was he so reluctant to explain? And why did he slip away from the Ranger Station again at supper time? --

Tune in next Thursday at this same hour when we continue the story of Ranger Jim and Jerry, guardians of the Pine Cone District of the National Forest.

"Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" comes to you as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

pmp - 12:20 P. M. November 29, 1932.

